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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY S/S-O: TANNER

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SCATTERED VIOLENCE IN LEBANON INCREASES

EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT TENSION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF
LEBANON IS MOUNTING:

--ZAHLE COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO KEEP THE
LID ON A VOLATILE SITUATION, BUT DISCOVERY OF MORE
BODIES AND REPORTS OF NEW KIDNAPPINGS HAVE HEIGHTENED
THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED VIOLENCE.

--A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN TRIPOLI ESCALATED INTO A CLASH
BETWEEN MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN GUNMEN, WITH ORDER BEING
RESTORED ONLY AFTER THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF FRAN-
GIE AND KARAME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THESE SEPARATE INCIDENTS, AND THE PALES-
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TINIAN AGITATION IN BEIRUT AND THE SOUTH, HAVE NOT YET

COMBINED INTO A SINGLE WAVE OF VIOLENCE, BUT THE POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR MORE SERIOUS TROUBLE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 11075, 9/3.)

2. PALESTINIANS IN DISARRAY OVER SINAI ACCORD

DESPITE A RISE IN THE PALESTINIAN VOICE LEVEL ON THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, EMBASSY BEIRUT SEES EVIDENCE OF DISUNITY IN THE REFUGEE ACTIVISTS' RANKS CONCERNING THE ISSUE. THE EMBASSY REPORTS:

--ARAFAT HAS CONTINUED TO SOFT PEDAL THE EGYPTIAN ROLE IN THE SINAI ACCORD, WHILE ATTACKING THE USG AND EMPHASIZING THE PIVOTAL POSITION OF THE PALESTINIANS.

--HIS "MODERATE" ALLIES, INCLUDING SOME WITHIN FATAH ITSELF, ARE LESS RESTRAINED IN THEIR REMARKS ABOUT EGYPT.

--THE PDFLP, WHICH DESPITE ITS MARXISM IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED "MODERATE," SPONSORED A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS EASY TO DISMISS THE RISING PALESTINIAN CLAMOR AS SOUND AND FURY SIGNIFYING NOTHING. IN REALITY, IT REFLECTS THE CURRENT MALAISE OF THE PALESTINIANS IN A SITUATION WHERE ONLY THE "REJECTIONISTS" SEEM TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE GOING. ARAFAT IS ENCOUNTERING OPPOSITION TO HIS STRATEGY OF DOWNPLAYING EGYPT'S ROLE. HOWEVER, HE HAS LITTLE OPTION FOR EFFECTIVE INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN ACTION OTHER THAN A MOVE TOWARD RADICALISM THAT WOULD DEPRIVE HIM OF HIS POSITION AS A "STATESMAN." (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 11046, 9/2.)

3. PORTUGAL: MODERATES INCREASE SUPPORT AMONG MILITARY

THE AIR FORCE ASSEMBLY BEING HELD SEPTEMBER 4 IS GIVEN A GOOD CHANCE BY EMBASSY LISBON TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2 ARMY ASSEMBLY IN OPPOSING GONCALVES AND BOYCOTTING THE AFM ASSEMBLY. THE NAVY ASSEMBLY, DOMINATED
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BY ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, IS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT GONCALVES.

MEANWHILE, SOARES HAS GIVEN COSTA GOMES HIS DEMANDS FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH INCLUDE:

--THE OUSTING OF GONCALVES;

--LOCAL, UNION, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS;

--SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND THE SOCIAL-
IST ECONOMIC PLAN.

THE EMBASSY ALSO REPORTS THAT IT HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY A
PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE OFFICER WITH A REQUEST FOR US ASSIST-
ANCE IN PROVIDING, IF NECESSARY, JET ATTACK AIRCRAFT IN THE
EVENT OF A COUP ATTEMPT. WHILE THE EMBASSY DISCOUNTS THE
OFFICER'S CLAIM OF TIES WITH THE ANTUNES GROUP, IT REPORTS
THE REQUEST AS AN INDICATION OF THE EXTREME THINKING NOW
GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE STRATEGY OF THE ANTUNES NINE SEEMS TO
BE MOVING ALONG STEADILY, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST OPPOSITION IS
STILL VERY STRONG. A MAJOR DANGER NOW IS A PREEMPTIVE COUP
ATTEMPT BY THE FAR RIGHT, OF WHICH THERE ARE INCREASING
INDICATIONS.

--THE FAR RIGHT MAY WISH TO STRIKE FIRST BEFORE THE
ANTUNES GROUP CAN TAKE OVER.

--A RIGHTIST ATTEMPT WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE
FAR LEFT BY FORCING THE ANTUNES GROUP TO JOIN WITH THE
PCP, WHICH WOULD LEAVE PORTUGAL BACK WHERE IT WAS AFTER
THE MARCH 11 FIASCIO. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5128,
5119; (SECRET) LISBON 5129 (EXDIS), 8/3.)

4. SAUDI/EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION?

A GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED SUDANESE NEWSPAPER REPRINTED ON SEP-
TEMBER 2 AN ARTICLE FROM THE EGYPTIAN WEEKLY AKHIR SAA THAT
SPECULATES ON THE FORMALIZATION OF A TRILATERAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONSHIP AMONG SAUDI ARABIA (WHICH HAS MONEY), EGYPT
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(TECHNICIANS AND MANPOWER), AND THE SUDAN (UNEXPLOITED ARA-
BLE LAND).

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE REPLAY OF THE STORY IN THE SUDANESE
PRESS INDICATES HIGH EXPECTATIONS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERN-
MENT THAT IT WILL SOON HAVE SOMETHING TO ANNOUNCE ON THE
RESULTS OF NIMEIRI'S MEETING WITH KHALID. (CONFIDENTIAL)
KHARTOUM 2068, 9/3.)

5. FRANCE: A SAUVAGNARGUES ROUNDUP

DURING A LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR HUMPHREY, FOREIGN
MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

--THE SECRETARY'S ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ARRIVING AT AN IN-

TERIM AGREEMENT IS A "SPLENDID" ONE.

--FRANCE IS MORE WILLING THAN GERMANY OR OTHER EC PART-
NERS TO PRESS THE TURKS FOR CONCESSIONS WHICH MIGHT GET
A GENUINE AGREEMENT GOING WITH THE GREEKS ON CYPRUS,
BUT THE OUTLOOK IS NOT GOOD.

--FRANCE WILL WELCOME A GOOD SALT AGREEMENT AND HAS NO
FEAR OF ANY US-SOVIET CONDOMINIUM.

--FRANCE HAILS WHAT IT REGARDS AS A SHIFT IN US POLICY
AWAY FROM A DESIRE TO BREAK UP OPEC.

SAUVAGNARGUES STRESSED THE NEARNESS OF US AND FRENCH POLICY
ON NUMEROUS SUBJECTS AND DECLARED THAT THE DAYS OF "COCK
FIGHTS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS"
ARE OVER AND DONE WITH. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 22475, 9/3.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE209792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: MORAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750305-0728
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750983/aaaacvtp.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, PO, XF
To: JCS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006